

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 have previously been withdrawn. Claims 17-44 are pending in the application and stand rejected. Following entry of the above amendment, claims 17-23, 26-34, 36-42, and 44 will be pending. Claims 17-21, 26-34, 36-42, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0190975 ("Kerr"). Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Kerr, as applied to claim 20, in view of Official Notice.

Applicants' undersigned attorney wishes to thank Examiner Hartman for the opportunity, on September 12, 2008, to conduct a telephonic interview regarding the pending Application. During the interview, the allowable claims and proposed amendments were discussed. During the interview the Examiner agreed that, pending final wording of the amendments, the independent claims incorporating the allowable subject matter would be allowable.

In the August 1, 2008 Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 22-23, 35, and 43 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have incorporated allowable claim 35 into independent claim 17, and allowable claim 43 into independent claim 36. Applicants have also amended independent claim 44 to incorporate the features of claim 43. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17, 36, and 44 are now allowable. Furthermore, Applicants submit that dependent claims 18-23, 26-34, and 37-42 are allowable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance.

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PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
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Respectfully submitted,

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